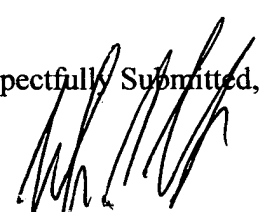


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph** – Claims 24, 25 and 31 lacked proper antecedent basis for the terms “said ends.” In response, claims 24 and 31 were amended to contain the proper antecedent basis for the terms “said ends.” Claim 25 was canceled. Claim 33 lacked proper antecedent basis for the terms “said neck opening.” In response, claim 33 was amended to contain the proper antecedent basis for these terms. The applicant requests the Examiner to now allow claims 24, 31 and 33.
2. **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)** - Claims 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the various references cited by the examiner in the instant office action. In response the applicant has canceled these claims.
3. **Allowed claims** – The Examiner has allowed claims 29, 30, 32, 34 and 35. The Examiner also allowed claim 23 provided that it was amended to contain the content of claim 22, the rejected base claim. The applicant amended claim 23 as directed by the Examiner and therefore it should now be allowable.
4. The undersigned, an attorney licensed to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office requests that the examiner find the present application in a condition for allowance, and any questions regarding this response be directed to the Applicant's attorney at (916) 441-2234.

Dated: November 1, 2004

Respectfully Submitted,


John P. Costello, Reg. No. 36,110
LAW OFFICES OF JOHN P. COSTELLO
331 J Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 441-2234